

Fergus Petroleum Co FSA
211 McKinley St – Ste 2
Lewistown MT 59457

Phone (406) 538-3489
Fax (406) 538-9353

County Committee Members

Dan Boyce, Chairperson
Steve Morris, Vice-Chairperson
Judy Hedman, Reg Member
Jill Knerr, Reg Member
Stuart Skinner, Reg Member

FSA Office Personnel & Phone Extension Numbers

John Nahrgang, CED.....108
Karen Boyles, FLM.....113
Vickie Baumgartner, PT.....110
Michele Gilpatrick, PT106
Kathi Glover, PT.....107
Les Melichar, PT105
Alta Pallett, PT.....109
Cheryl Tucek, CPT104
John Ahlgren, Field

Dates to Remember:

August 4 - September 28 – DCP late filed fee of \$100 will be assessed
September 10 – Signup begins for LCP and LIP
September 24-27 – Tribal Outreach Forum, Gran Tree, Bozeman
September 28 – Final date for late filed 2007 DCP contracts
October 1 – CRP payments begin being issued
October 2 & 3 – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium, Dillon
October 13 – Deadline for removal of hay from CRP emergency haying and Managed haying
October 13 – Removal of livestock for CRP emergency grazing
October 15 – CDP Signup Begins
November 2 – COC ballots will be mailed to eligible voters
December 1 – NAP application closing date for Honey
December 3 – Final date to return voted COC ballots to FSA office



Fergus-Petroleum FSA

September 2007

Disaster Program Signup Begins

Signup for the *Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)* and the *Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)* will begin **September 10, 2007**.

Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 or producers located in counties contiguous to those counties are eligible. Also producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration made by President Bush may also be eligible for LCP, LIP and DDAP.

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007 due to natural disaster. This can include producers who suffered losses resulting from blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007. Livestock producers may elect to receive compensation for calendar year 2007 grazing season losses that are attributable to wildfire natural disaster occurring during the applicable period as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Eligible livestock include: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, deer or swine.

Producers will not be penalized if they reduced the average number of livestock they owned for grazing during the production year for which assistance is being provided.

The payment rate for each livestock category will be 61 percent of the USDA determined national payment rate.

LIP compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between January 1, 2005 and February 23, 2007 that resulted from natural disasters.

Eligible livestock include: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, or deer.

The payment rate will be 26 percent of the market value of the livestock on the day before the date of death, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. These rates will be available at the FSA office during the sign-up period.

Producers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in LCP or LIP benefits. Eligible producers must choose only one year for which they wish to receive benefits in either of the programs.

Crop Disaster Program Signup Begins

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) will **begin October 15, 2007**. CDP does not require a disaster declaration.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price.

Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits.

Beginning, Small and Limited Resource Farmers: Do You Require Financial Assistance to Fund Conservation Program Initiatives?

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and FSA have worked cooperatively to make USDA programs more available and readily accessible to beginning, small, and limited resource producers.

As many producers move from the initial contract development of especially the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), many face the inability to acquire the initial capital investment for their cost-share portion needed for contract implementation. Even with increased cost-share rates, the challenge of providing the up-front share may present problems to full contract implementation.

Beginning, Small and Limited Resource Farmers: (Continued)

USDA provides some options. FSA has several loan programs available that may help with the upfront costs associated with program implementation. Use of FSA loan programs, in conjunction with conservation programs, has the potential to improve the effectiveness of both NRCS and FSA programs. FSA loans can be used for various farm purposes such as farm improvements, which would cover conservation projects and practices, and payment of costs associated with land and water development for conservation use purposes. Loan funds may be used to finance the producer's share of the project cost, and also as interim financing on the Federal cost-share portion paid upon completion of the conservation program project.

Contact the FSA or NRCS office for options available and further information on how FSA loans can assist with completing conservation projects.

Emergency Loan Program

Producers who suffered losses due to a hailstorm on June 24, 2007, may be eligible for emergency loans. Call Karen for eligibility criteria or see www.fsa.usda.gov to view FSA Fact Sheets – Emergency Loan Program.

New Soil Rental Rates

CRP rental rates provide the basis for maximum payment rate calculations used to determine annual rental payments on a per acre basis. Periodic reviews are required to ensure that rental rates reflect county average cash market dryland rents. A state-wide review was completed this summer. This review of cash market dryland rents resulted in an increase of \$1 on a majority of the individual soil types. These new rates became effective on August 16, 2007 and will apply to new CRP contracts approved on or after that date.

The new CRP soil rental rates are posted at the local County FSA Office.

Rural Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations.

Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Who may borrow?

To qualify for a loan, an applicant must:

- Be a citizen of the United States (or a permanent resident), which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- Be between 10 and 20 years old;
- Live in a town of less than 10,000 residents;
- Be unable to obtain a loan from other sources; and
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work, as outlined above.

The project adviser must recommend the project and the loan and agree to provide adequate supervision.

What are some possible projects?

All projects must be a income producing project.

What is the maximum loan amount?

The maximum amount for FSA youth loans is \$5,000

What security is required?

Applicants must sign a promissory note and be responsible for repaying the loan. In some cases, a cosigner may be required. Loan collateral normally consists of items purchased with loan funds.

What are the repayment terms?

The repayment schedule will be worked out with FSA. Payments will be tailored to the type of project for which the loan was made.

Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium

The Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium will be held October 2 & 3, 2007 at the Beaverhead Golf Course, Highway 41 North in Dillon. Early registration is \$50 due by September 20. The Symposium is sponsored by the State FAC, MT Agri-Women, MT Farm Bureau Women, WIFE and the MT Cattlewomen. The symposium provides a platform for women involved in the promotion of Montana's agriculture to learn of issues affecting rural agricultural communities, promote leadership development, and further support women's leadership roles.

An agenda including the registration form is available at the FSA office or by logging into the Montana FSA homepage at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

One Month Extension for MILC Payments

The Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program payment rate calculation at 34 percent has been extended for the month of September 2007.

The MILC program compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level.

The one month extension was provided through the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2007. Under previous law, the MILC payment period and 34 percent rate expired at the end of August 2007, and the payment rate for September 2007 was zero percent.

Dairy producers must contact the local FSA office to change their production start month to September 2007.

COC Election

Ballots for the county committee (COC) election will be mailed to eligible voters by November 2. The final date to submit ballots to the FSA county office is December 3.

Please vote and have your voice be heard for USDA programs to fit the needs of the local community.

**U S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY
FERGUS-PETROLEUM COUNTY FSA
211 MCKINLEY ST – STE 2
LEWISTOWN MT 59457-2266**

PRESORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BOZEMAN, MT 59715
PERMIT #54

Inside this Issue

**Disaster Program Signup
Beginning, Small and Limited
Resource Farmers
Emergency Loan Program
Soil Rental Rates
Rural Youth Loans
Women Stepping Forward
For Agriculture
One Month Extension for MILC**

Important Dates to Remember

**September 10 – Signup begins for LCP, LIP
September 24-27 – Tribal Outreach Forum
September 28 - DCP late-filed deadline
October 2 & 3 – Women Stepping Forward for
Agriculture Symposium
October 15 – Signup begins for CDP
November 2 – COC ballots mailed to voters
December 3 – COC ballots returned to office**

2008 NAP Important Dates

Crop	Application Closing Date
Perennial Forage, Mint, Mixed Forage, All Types	March 15, 2008
Annual Crops – Both Fall & Spring Seeded Crops: Winter Peas & Rye; Garlic; Wheat Forage; Millet; Buckwheat; Sorghum Forages	March 15, 2008
Perennial Fruit (Apples, Cherries, etc.)	March 15, 2008
Honey	December 1, 2007

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact John Nahrgang, CED, at 211 McKinley Street – Suite 2, Lewistown MT 59457, or phone number 406-538-3489 or e-mail to John.Nahrgang@mt.usda.gov .